

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05777 050628Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 AID-05 OMB-01 /091 W
-----102729 050639Z /16

P R 041615Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7597
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION SINAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 5777

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: INTRA-PARTY ACRIMONY FOLLOWS COLLAPSE OF DMC'S TALKS WITH
THE COALITION

REF: TEL AVIV 5654

1. ONCE AGAIN THE DMC HAS FORMALLY BROKEN OFF COALITION
TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES. BY A VOTE OF 61 TO 8
(WITH 10 ABSTENTIONS) THE DMC COUNCIL LAST NIGHT PASSED
A RESOLUTION SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT COALITION DID NOT
CREATE CONDITIONS ENABLING THE DMC TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT.

2. THE COUNCIL VOTE WAS SOMETHING OF AN ANTI-CLIMAX. IT
WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE INCONCLUSIVE AUGUST 1 AND 2
MEETINGS OF THE DMC AND THE PARTIES OF THE COALITION
THAT THE TALKS HAD COLLAPSED. THE PRIMARY STUMBLING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05777 050628Z

BLOCK (OSTENSIBLY AT LEAST) WAS THE DIFFERENCE OVER
ELECTORAL REFORM, WITH THE NRP ADAMANTLY OPPOSING THE
DMC PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE ISRAEL INTO 16 ELECTORAL
DISTRICTS (REFTEL). DIFFERENCES ALSO REMAINED OVER
THE DMC'S INSISTENCE ON COMBINING THE HEALTH MINISTRY
WITH THE RESERVED-FOR-DMC SOCIAL BETTERMENT MINISTRY,
BUT THIS WAS SEEN AS AMENABLE TO SOLUTION DEPENDING ON

THE DEPTH OF BEGIN'S INTEREST. THE QUESTION OF CO-ALITION DISCIPLINE ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES WAS RESOLVED WITH YADIN'S RETREAT FROM HIS EARLIER INSISTENCE THAT DMC MKS BE FREE TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE EVEN WHEN RELIGIOUS MATTERS TURN INTO A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

3. IN HIS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL LAST NIGHT, YADIN NOTED THAT BEGIN HAD TOLD HIM TO PREPARE A MEMORANDUM CONCEPTUALIZING THE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS PROPOSED ROLE AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. HE COMPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NEVER ASKED TO PRESENT IT AND IMPLIED THAT THE LIKUD HAD TOYED WITH HIM. THE POINT ILLUSTRATES THE POLITICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL INTER-RELATIONSHIPS THAT PERVADED THE NEGOTIATIONS. SEVERAL SPEAKERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING VOICED BITTERNESS AT BEGIN FOR "LYING" TO THE DMC, WHILE SOME WERE CRITICAL OF THE DMC'S NEGOTIATING TEAM. OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE COUNCIL MEETING NOTED AN ATMOSPHERE OF INDECISION WHICH YADIN DID LITTLE TO DISPEL - ALTHOUGH HIS EVENTUAL RECOMMENDATION WAS AGAINST JOINING THE COALITION. HE SEEMED INEFFECTUAL AS A LEADER, AND INDEED HIS RECENT PERFORMANCE HAS DONE LITTLE TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE WITHIN THE DMC.

4. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY TO EXPLAIN THE DMC DECISION, MK MEIR ZOREA LASHED OUT AT HIS COLLEAGUES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05777 050628Z

MEIR AMIT AND AMNON RUBENSTEIN FOR "TORPEDOING"THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE CHARGED THAT FROM THE OUTSET THEY HAD OPPOSED JOINING THE COALITION AND WERE BENT ON TRYING TO UNDERMINE YADIN'S LEADERSHIP. HE SAID THAT THEY HAVE NO PLACE IN THE PARTY AND IF THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL DID NOT SUPPORT HIM (ZOREA), HE WOULD DRAW THE PROPER CONCLUSIONS. ZOREA'S OUTBURST APPARENTLY CAUGHT THE OTHER DMC LEADERS BY SURPRISE; YADIN, FAILING TO SILENCE ZOREA, ATTEMPTED TO SMOOTH OVER THE INTRA-PARTY CONFLICT BY ASSERTING THAT HE FEARED NO SPLITS IN THE PARTY. LATER RUBENSTEIN DECLARED THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR ZOREA'S PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY, HE WOULD SUE HIM.

5. COMMENT: POINTING TO THE PROMISING BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE BEGIN'S U.S. VISIT AND HIS ALLEGED DISINTEREST FOLLOWING HIS RETURN, OBSERVERS CONTEND THAT THE DMC HAS INDEED BEEN CONNED BY VETERAN POLITICIAN BEGIN. AS THE DMC'S IMAGE DECLINES WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE TALKS, THE FIRST LONG-ANTICIPATED FISSURES HAVE APPEARED IN THE PARTY. ZOREA HAS BEEN VIEWED AS A WEAK LINK SHOULD COALITION TALKS FAIL JUST

AS RUBENSTEIN ON THE OTHER EXTREME SEEMED A PRIME
CANDIDATE TO LEAVE THE PARTY HAD THE TALKS SUCCEEDED.

6. AT THIS JUNCTURE WE HESITATE TO WRITE FINIS TO THE
POSSIBILITY OF THE DMC EVENTUALLY JOINING THE GOVERNMENT. THERE
IS STILL CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES FOR A
WIDER COALITION. THE NRP, FOR EXAMPLE, INTENDS IN
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO UNDERTAKE A SOPHISTICATED STUDY
OF WHAT ELECTORAL REFORM WOULD MEAN FOR THAT PARTY.
IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH US, MK YEHUDA BEN MEIR
OF THE NRP INSISTED THAT HIS PARTY, INCLUDING HIS OWN
YOUTH FACTION, WANTS THE DMC IN THE COALITION AND
THAT THE SAME GOES FOR BEGIN BUT CERTAINLY FOR
THE TIME BEING, THE GAME IS OVER.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TEL AV 05777 050628Z

LEWIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, ELECTION REFORM, NEGOTIATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV05777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770280-1106
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770895/aaaadczzr.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a50e7061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 5654
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1705431
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTRA-PARTY ACRIMONY FOLLOWS COLLAPSE OF DMC'S TALKS WITH THE COALITION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a50e7061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009